

Wensum Working Group meeting minutes 11/4/2017

Attending:

Jake Davoile
John Bailey
Tim Venes
Dennis Willis
Roger Gibbons
Tim Ellis
Kelvin Allen
Ursula Juta

Topic:

Monitoring: Dennis stated that a number of people dropped out of the monitoring due to lack of enthusiasm. All agreed that this is something that needs attention to understand where fish thrive. UJ to ask EA where to sample to fill gaps that they are unable to fulfil. We will need landowner's permission.

Crayfish: All agreed that WWG are unable to tackle crayfish until it is taken higher. Can Angling Trust support NE and EA to tackle them? It was highlighted that there is a need to lower barriers to tackling crayfish in a SSSI.

Cormorants: Around 35000 migrant cormorants over-winter in UK. WWG working with Angling Trust (Jake) to get an area licence. As a group we need to map clubs and map landowners to reduce fragmentation (Kelvin has already done a sterling job!). As a group we need landowner's evidence of cormorants, including photo's and numbers if possible. Jake must have this evidence for the licence which we hope to begin from 1st September. Note to all members: please keep records, dates and photos of cormorants to assist the application.

Landowner's details: UJ to complete spreadsheet of 27 riparian landowners details.

Questionnaire: This is to go out to landowners and anglers across the Wensum to gauge their perspective on fishing and fish stocks in the Wensum. The questionnaire is currently being improved by Terry Lawton.

Turbidity: Seems to be from upstream of Tatterford, Helhoughton. It is clear at West Rudham but "chocolate" from South Raynham. 4 points of road runoff are being investigated by EA. Note to all members: please keep records of run-off, exact location and take photos if possible. You MUST report them to EA hotline and keep a record of the reference number. The more reports they have the better chance we have of it being investigated and tackled. We need evidence to be able to tackle this problem.

Tim Ellis's photo's: Lyng – regularly flooded, fast flowing, black sludge being deposited there. Can we get this analysed? UJ to ask Richard Cooper of UEA DTC and EXO Environmental for analysis.

Gravel jetting: Steve Lane has 3 sets of machinery at Costessey. Most effective 2-3 weeks before barbel, chub and trout spawning time. 5-6mm gravel ideal.

Barbel talk: UJ to invite Adam Piper and or Kye Jerrom to talk about Barbel. 4000 barbel released in Wensum 80% of tags found in 1 mill pool. Small percentage survive. Downside is that lots of money is spent on stocking for such a low survival rate. Is it better to stock alternatives? We need to consult

with NE SSSI stocking policy to ascertain exactly what they will allow. UJ to invite NE representative to discuss this at next meeting.

Budget: Kelvin met with EA management team. £389000 rod licence money from April 1st. More than £54000 spent to employ an enforcement officer. Kelvin also discussed the lack of skills from Norwich team compared to Brampton team. He was assured there would be a skills transfer in the next 4 months. A full survey report will be made available, with recommendations.

Roger Gibbons agreed to send round the hand written data from EA.

End.